

COURSE ASSESSMENT REPORT ON KØBENHAVNS GOLF KLUB

Introduction

This is a unique course and a unique place to be allowed to play golf. It is a simply superb setting with great turf and a top class golf course as well. That is not to say that all is well, because the course has lost much of its challenge over the years and this is only going to become worse, if left alone. The recent Seniors Tour event showed how vulnerable the course is to good quality players.

The following report will explain how the game has changed in the past 50 years and what this has done to the course. It will then look at the good and bad things about the course (strengths and weaknesses) before making recommendations on what to do. This is intended to form the basis for a long-term plan. It goes through all elements of the course and looks at what needs to be improved to ensure that the course remains in its rightful place amongst Europe's elite courses. It deserves to stay there, but some adjustment has to take place.

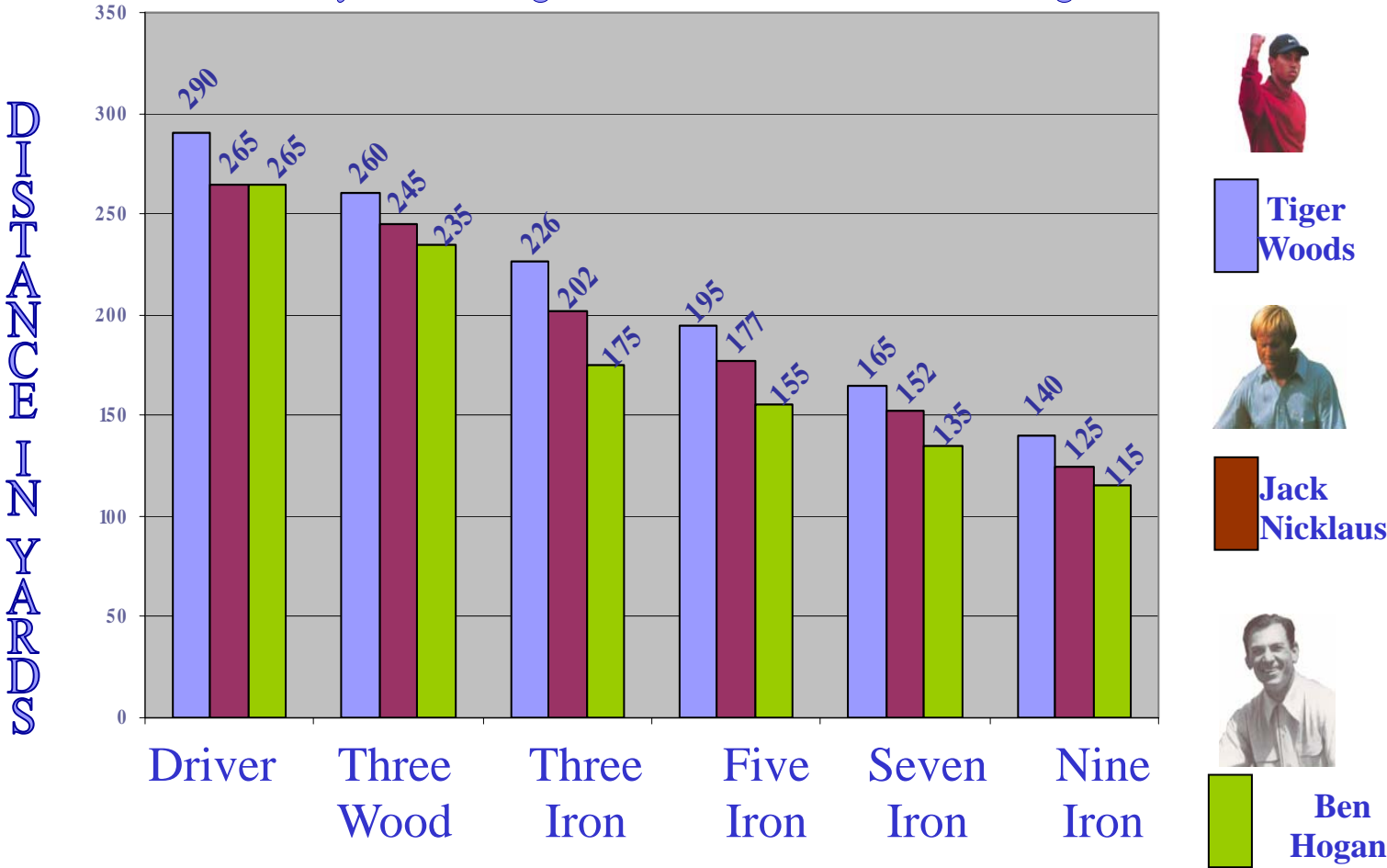
The Effects of Modern Playing Equipment On Established Courses

Memberships of clubs around the world are united in not liking change. What many do not realise, however, is that in recent years much change has happened that the Club's did not plan at all. It has also happened quite slowly, so it has not been a sudden awakening.



The glorious setting for the course is a superb example of how golf can work in a parkland setting

Comparison of Average Distances
Achieved by Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods



Nobody can doubt that the ball is flying further today than it has ever done before. This increase has accelerated dramatically in the past 10 years. Statistics from the tours confirm this as the diagram below shows. It was prepared in 2002, so it is now a little out of date. It shows that in the 20 years between Hogan and Nicklaus little changed but the difference between Nicklaus and Tiger Woods is enormous. On the 14th at St. Andrews, it was normal for Nicklaus and Hogan to need a driver, three wood and pitching wedge to reach the green. Tiger is closer to the 15th green with these three clubs these days.

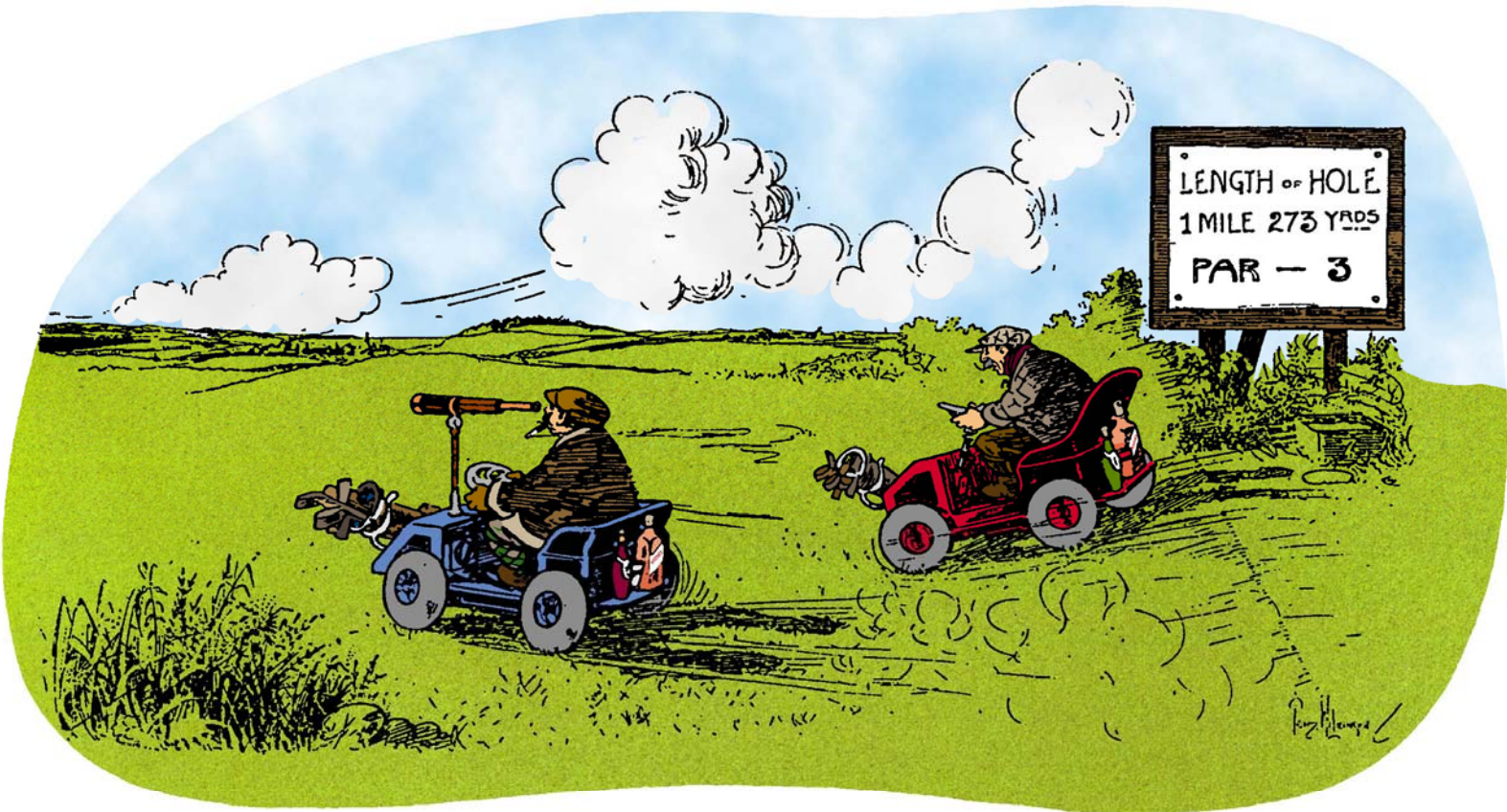
Most reasonable players admit that they are probably hitting the ball further than they ever have. This is more to do with the how much they can afford to pay for a new driver than golfing skill.

Copenhagen, by virtue of its terrain, has weathered the storm better than many courses. There is no doubt, though, that the course plays differently now than it did ten or twenty years ago. Fairway bunkers that tested the best in 1980 are carried in the air now and it is the middle handicap players who are having to negotiate them. The better players who should be challenged most are no longer being challenged. They are playing to landing areas that are wide open and they gain a disproportionate advantage.

These problems are exaggerated by the fact that the ball is generally flying straighter as well. This has prompted many clubs to narrow their fairways and green entrances and the result has been to leave fairway bunkers in the rough. Think about it. Bunkers make players decide how to play the hole. They are not there to catch a bad shot. This is not a new problem, however, as the cartoon, which dates from 1908 shows. It is a sad fact that golf has been very bad at managing technology and it is the courses that have been forced to change as a result.

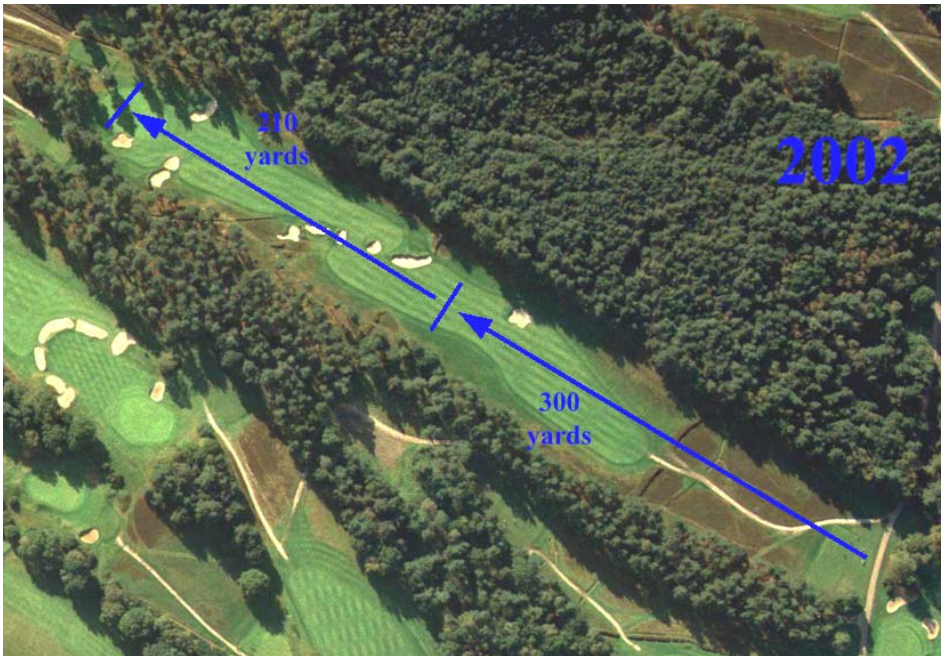
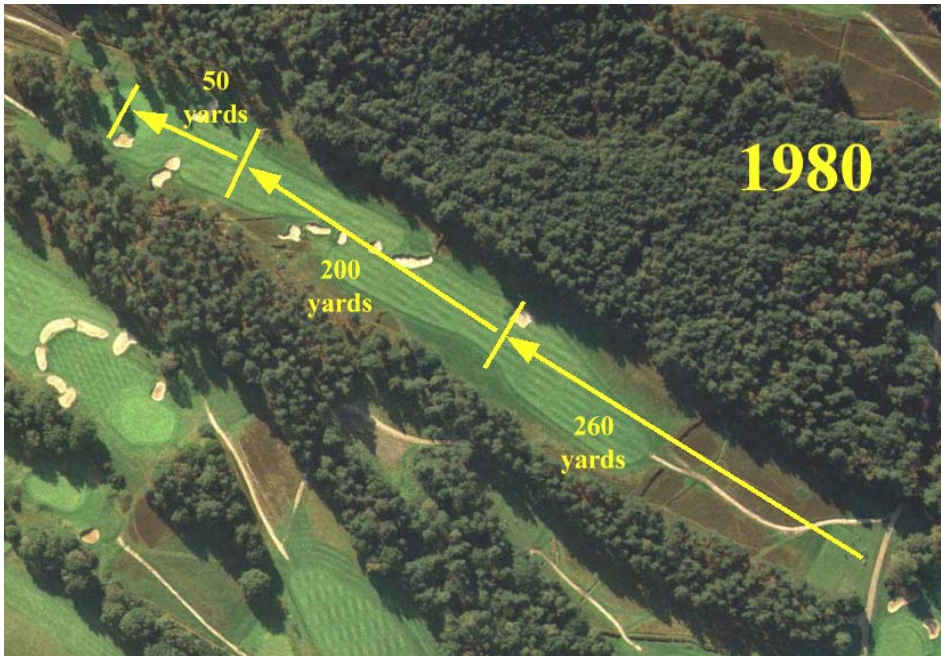
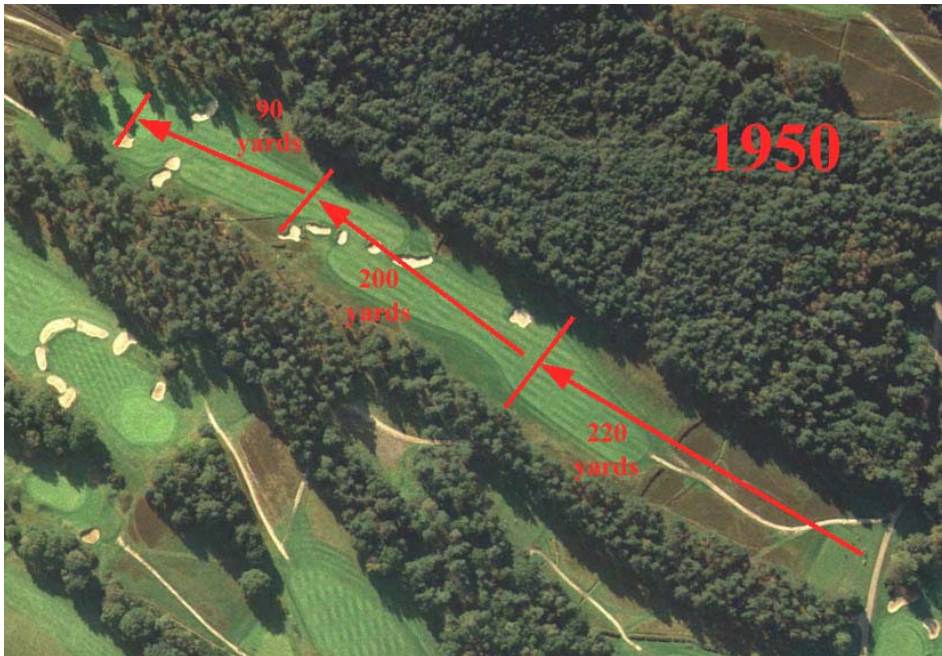
The series of aerial photographs of the 14th at Sunningdale shows graphically the changes that have occurred. It was not that long ago that the hole was a classic three shotter where the gamble was when to try to carry the bunkers that cut across the second shot. Gradually, this became easier and easier and now the hole is really only a par four for the better players. At this rate, it will not be long before the bunkers are in play from the tee. The original superb strategy is now meaningless.

The challenge that golf course architects face when recommending renovation plans is to read the minds of the original architect to try to guess what they would have done, if they were here today. The shape of the land sometimes means relatively radical recommendations because small adjustment no longer makes sense.



The steadily increasing length derived from the continued improvements in the modern golf ball has already caused dismay to the designers of golf links, but when this length is enormously augmented by the baked state of the ground in a hot summer drastic reform in links architecture will be imperative. We venture a peep into the near future.

First Player: "Did you hit yours well, old chap?"
Second Ditto: "Not very. I cut it a bit; but I think it's on the green!"



The 14th at Sunningdale
This was a brilliant short par five that has lost all meaning because of new clubs and balls.

Strategic Golf Course Design and The Great Architects

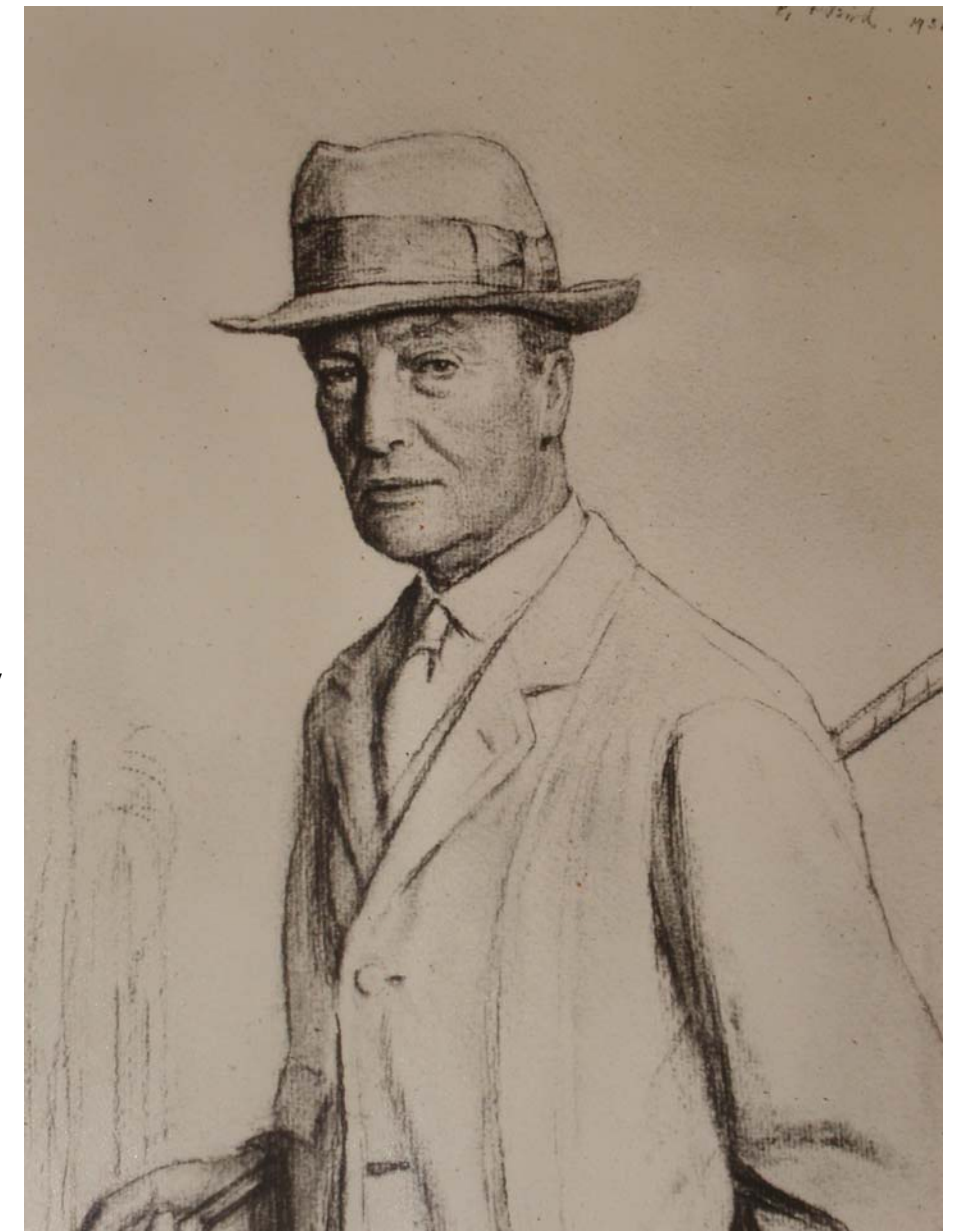
It is a common misconception that this is not a problem for the game as a whole. If only that were the case. A fundamental principle of golf course architecture is to test the best more and not to punish the lesser players who find the physical act of hitting the ball difficult. “Poor players carry their bunkers with them” is another way of putting it. This is called strategic golf course architecture and it sets out to pose a mental test for all levels of players, most particularly those most up to the test: the best.

There is reasonable evidence on the course to suggest that parts of the course were designed by one of the top English architects in the late 1920's. It has been suggested that this may have been John Abercromby and there are certainly greens that bear similarities to some of his in England. He specialised in the subtleties of the shaping around his greens and he teamed up with Herbert Fowler and Tom Simpson late in his career. These two created Walton Heath, The Berkshire and Saunton in England, Morfontaine, Chiberta and Chantilly in France and County Louth and Ballybunion in Ireland as well as further courses in America. Abercromby's work at The Addington and Worplesdon in England gave them an impressive pedigree.

Abercromby was one of the father's of strategic design and the angling of bunkers and overall configuration of holes certainly makes it possible that he was at work on the course. Many of the holes require careful placement to one side or the other of the fairway and the shapes of what is assumed are the original greens (1st, 4th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 18th) give huge variety for flag positions. These then change how the rest of the hole is played.



The classic simplicity of Abercromby's renowned “The Addington” in Croydon, South of London



John Frederick Abercromby or “Aber” as he was known.



An Assessment of the Course

General Character

It needs hardly be said that this is one of the great places to play golf. Its scale and majesty are unique. The terrain is well suited for golf with enough changes of level to create interest without the course being a difficult walk. The trees rarely feature in the challenge of the holes but they provide a mature background that makes the course timeless. The low profile tees and absence of obvious signs and furniture add to the pristine character of the landscape.

The Layout and Length

The layout of the course is good. The holes are mostly well spaced and there is plenty of variety, even though most of the holes run approximately east to west. There are two or three areas where the holes are a little tighter: the 4th and 14th green, 5th and 11th tee area and the 5th green, 6th tee and 3rd tee area and the 17th green, 2nd tee area. There are very few courses that do not have similar congested areas. It is a compromise between these and long walks from green to next tee.

The balance of the course is reasonable with the par threes well spread out (1st, 8th, 16th and 18th). The overall length of the course is now short by modern standards for top players as the scoring in the Senior's event showed. It is even starting to be quite short for Club golf at around 6000metres. There is not all that much room to extend the course further.

Men and Women

A common feature of older courses that are no longer as hard as they used to be is that the women's courses are relatively much harder than the men's course. This is exactly the case here. Using the Netherlands Golf Association model for comparing the two courses, so that everyone can play the same the competitions, the gap between the white and blue tees is nearly two full shots (1.8), while the reds and whites are of equivalent length.

The ideal situation is for the new bunkers on a course to be equally in play for all players regardless of sex, but the reality is that this is difficult to achieve. This simple comparison shows the need for extra length to be added to the men's course to make them as similar as possible. A hole by hole comparison would also make sense to establish whether a plan of adjustment of the women's tees is needed over the years to ensure that the bunkers are as fair to all players as possible.

Tees

The tees are on the small side by modern standards, but they do not appear to be too worn out. The fact that they have been kept low to the ground is good. Too many clubs are obsessed with building up tees to "have a better view" when in fact the view is almost exactly the same from them and the raised creations are ugly to look at from everywhere else.



The scale and character of the landscape is one feature in making the course such a special place to play the game



The Strong and Weak Holes

The strong holes on the course are the 1st, 4th, 6th (from the white and blue tees), 11th and 17th, although the combination of holes on the back nine combine to create an excellent nine. The weaker holes are the 2nd, 5th and 6th (from the yellow tees).

Par Threes

Some “experts” will say that starting and finishing with par threes is bad. Simply ask them why. Good holes are good holes wherever they fall and the 1st and 18th are both that. In an ideal world, it would be better to have the par threes facing in different direction (the points of the compass) but that is not the case here.



Few of the par fours are still strong two shot holes. This has been a big change in the past twenty years

Par Fours

The par fours have a good range of lengths, but even the 12th is no longer a long par four in the summer. This is a common problem on many established courses. 30 years ago, 370 metres was a long par four. Now anything less than 430m is not long. The key is to bunkering the holes to make long drives much more dangerous.

Par Fives

The par fives are reasonably strong but the drives are not strongly protected so they often play shorter than their length. This is now the era where every long player feels that par fives should always be within range in two shots and are automatic birdie opportunities. Golf course architects see it differently and defend par fives to make all players consider different options, perhaps even making longer players play short. Par fives are often the easiest holes on the course, so the fact that there are only three is a strength.

Greens and Green Surrounds

The green shapes themselves vary from eccentric (the 4th) to largely flat (the 7th). There is no doubt that the more contoured greens add to the strategy of the holes but where they are too small or shaded (the 1st), there are significant greenkeeping problems. It would be better to have a little more movement in putting surfaces in more of the greens, but this is not a major weakness. One disappointing feature is the lack of subtlety in the green surrounds. There is not really one green where there are attractive shapes. The lack of subtlety is a weakness on a course that is amongst the very best courses in Europe.

Bunkers

Without doubt, though, the major weakness of the course is the bunkering and many of the reasons are stated above. There are not many bunkers on the course at 49, but it is only about a quarter of those that really test the better players. All of the rest catch the poorer players out. That is not what was intended. The location of the drive bunkers has become obsolete. They are far too wide and many are closer to the tee on par fours than they are to the greens. That makes no sense.

The shapes of the bunkers are often ugly, with extended ends where the bunker raking machine drags sand out. Many are virtually flat and represent little or no hazard and better players would certainly prefer to be in a bunker than in the rough. Bunkers are a vital weapon in the defence of the course. They do little right now except cost money to maintain. It is time to start again on the bunkers, as this is the best way to ensure that the course's reputation remains high. At present, the general atmosphere of the place is what does this now. The details let the course down.



There are few bunkers that look attractive and are genuine hazards for better players



One of the strong par three holes on the course



The shapes of the surrounds are uninteresting on many greens

Existing Course Layout at Royal Copenhagen Golf Club

November 2005



No.	Revision/Issue	Date



Project COPENHAGEN GOLF CLUB	
Drawing Title Existing Layout	
Drawing No. Layout 01 Exist	
Date 28/10/05	Drawn by CH

Recommendations

Long Term Planning

It is all too easy to look at this type of report, assume that it is too expensive and too grand and to put it in the filing cabinet. If the work were to be done in one go, it would be relatively expensive, but nothing like the cost of major work to the clubhouse. This sort of work can easily be done over five or ten years, although a point is reached where the members are sick of disturbance and it is better to endure more inconvenience annually over a fewer number of years.

There is a significant amount to do to restore the test of the course and it is a big job for the Club staff to do without external help. The absolute key to success is to make sure that the shapes of the new bunkers and other features are as good as possible and skilled and experienced golf machine operators will make the work so much easier.

Bunkers

As mentioned above, a complete rethink on the bunkering is required. This does not mean many new bunkers. Far from it. In fact, 8 bunkers are being split into two with the same area and the final number is 57, so everything is evened out, with an overall reduction in sand area. It is a question of moving them around to make the better players think again. The modern game has also made architects concentrate more on the par five holes and the short par fours to make sure that they do not become over-powered. Great emphasis is placed on doing this in the overall plan.

The style of bunkers is something that has to be changed. A strong recommendation is to reduce the overall area of sand and to stop using the bunker rake machine. These machines have done more damage to classic bunker designs than anything else. The new bunkers should also be made deeper, going down into the ground more, with more obvious faces. They should be hazards that players really want to avoid. This will mean lowering the ground to make sure that there are not big steps down into the sand. There are a few reasonably good bunkers on the course, notably the 11th greenside bunkers and the right greenside bunker on the 10th. They are better examples but still not ideal. The photos below are examples of bunkers from other courses of a similar age and on similar soils. Some are original, while some have been rebuilt quite recently.



Original Abercrombie on The Addington

Good examples of bunkers in a park setting where they have a real impact without the sand being visible

The 11th green is one of the few where the bunkers have an impact on the appearance of the hole and the way in which it plays. The sand is not visible, but they have height.

Greens and Green Surrounds

A hallmark of the greatest courses of the 1920s and 1930s is the shaping of the green surrounds, especially on sandy soils. Hollows and shallow hills were shaped to appear natural and they add great interest to the play around the greens and help to add to the variety of pin positions. This sort of shaping is absent from the course but would make a huge difference. This work would involve reshaping some of the areas around greens without rebuilding the putting surfaces.

In many cases, the outside 2 metres of the green may be lifted and reshaped to create more interesting shapes, such as shoulders running into the putting surface from bunker banks and valleys running off into hollows. This has been done recently with great effect on top class courses in Ireland. It costs far less, is very effective and involves much less disruption for the members than full reconstruction. The turf is stripped off and then replaced soon after.



A recently completed hollow in Ireland



Original humps at Abercromby's Addington



Tom Simpson's green surround shapes at County Louth in Ireland



18th Green at County Louth
Before, During and After
The original green lacked interest, it was reshaped, lifting the edge of the green as well, so that it rolled off.



Tees

There is a need to add length in the coming years. The tees mentioned do not need to be built immediately, but it is important to know where and how much length can easily be added. The recommended tees would have the same character as the other tees. Further length can be added later but these would involve far greater construction to avoid ugly platforms appearing in the landscape.

Hole	Present Length	Proposed Length	Difference	Present Par	Proposed Par	Comments
1	181	181	0	3	3	Possible extra length available in long term
2	276	276	0	4	4	
3	333	333	0	4	4	
4	515	515	0	5	5	Possible extra length available in long term
5	270	215	-55	4	3	A strong par three that could be even longer
6	391	406	15	4	4	New tees in area of existing 5th green
7	462	482	20	5	5	New tee strengthens the drive more.
8	145	145	0	3	3	
9	344	359	15	4	4	New tees on higher ground also add length
OUT	2917	2912	-5	36	35	The reduction in par makes this nine more demanding than at present
Hole	Present Length	Proposed Length	Difference	Present Par	Proposed Par	Comments
10	369	389	20	4	4	New tee brings hill into play for longer players again
11	403	413	10	4	4	More room for back tee when present 5th removed
12	420	430	10	4	4	Extend the present tee slightly
13	366	366	0	4	4	
14	370	390	20	4	4	Possible back tee on left. 10 metres can be gained on the right as well
15	335	355	20	4	4	New back tee increases the angle of the dogleg
16	151	151	0	3	3	
17	504	519	15	5	5	New back tee makes it harder to drive over the hill
18	177	187	10	3	3	Possible back tee if length is needed
IN	3095	3200	105	35	35	
OUT	2917	2912	-5	36	35	

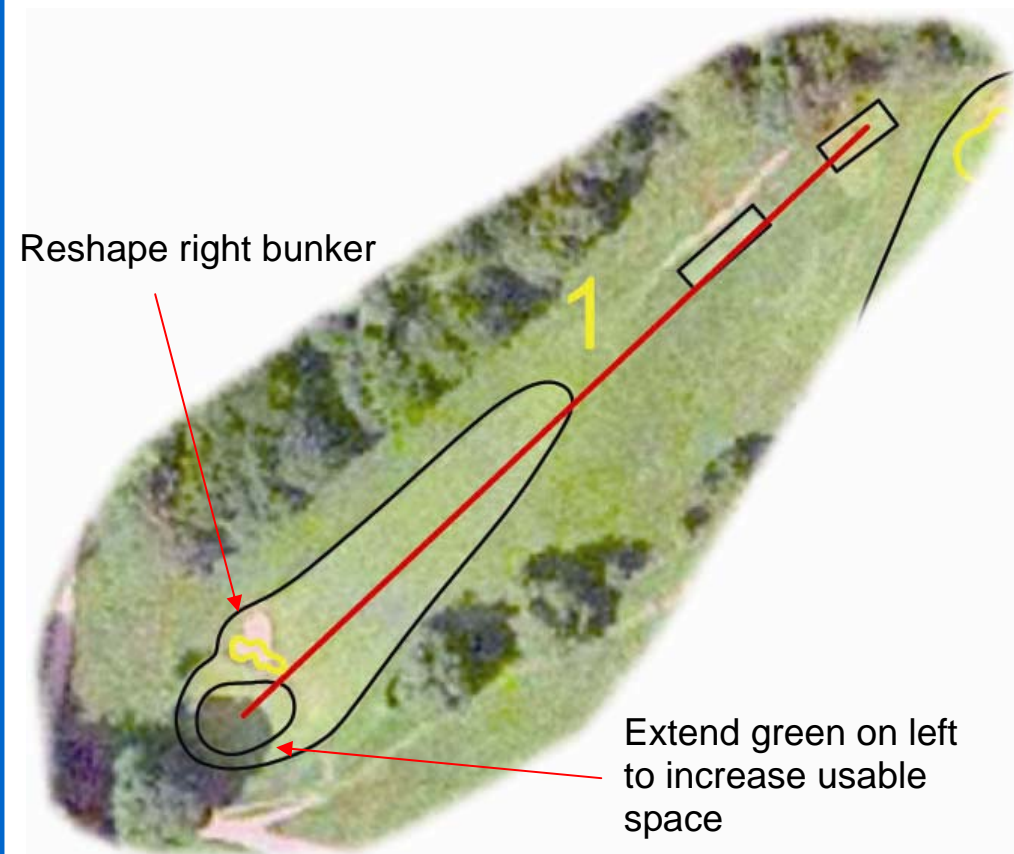
Hole By Hole Recommendations

1st Hole Par 3

White: 181m Yellow: 165m Blue: 145m Red: 138m

This is attractive and testing first hole. The green is very sloping and small. Almost half (180m²) cannot be used for flag positions. The shade from the tree behind the green and the small area that can be used make the grass very weak. It is an attractive green and the best plan is to extend the green by 6 metres to the left and to create hollows left of that, removing the ditch. If the ditch is still needed, it can be moved closer to the road. This will improve traffic flow for golfers and machines.

If the green extension does not work, then reconstruction in character with the present green may be required.



2nd Hole Par 4

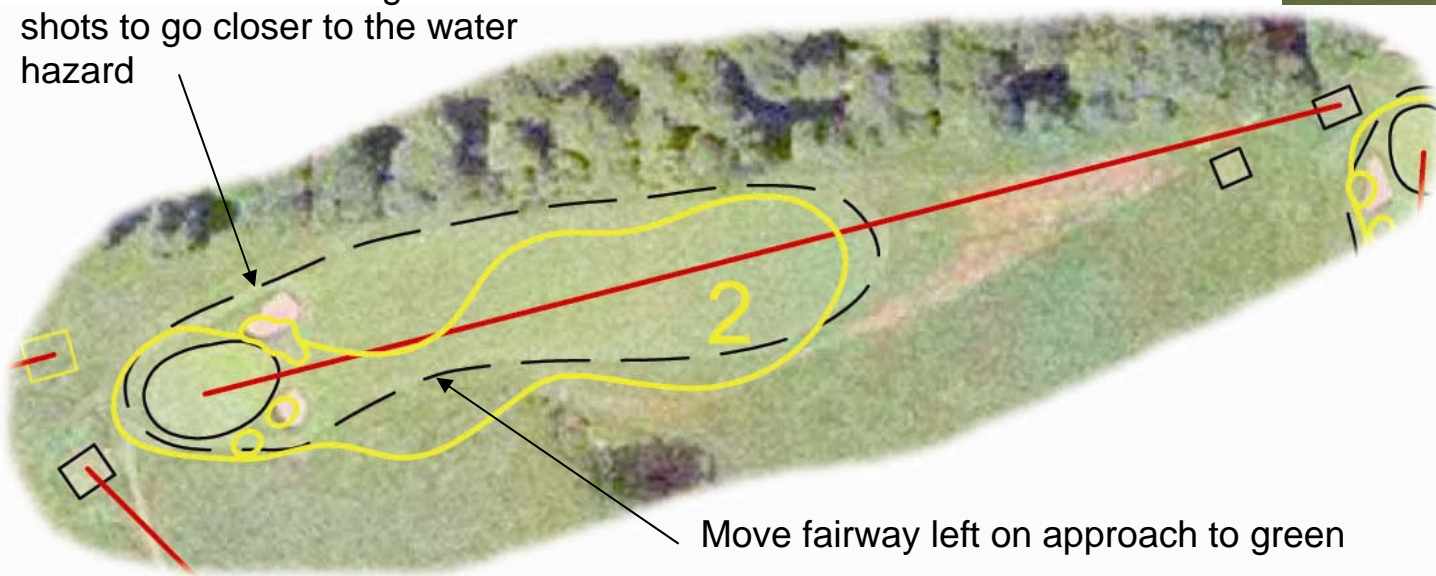
White: 276m Yellow: 276m Blue: 276m Red: 246m

The green is now within range from the tee and the bunkers do nothing to make that more dangerous. The lack of visibility from the tee reduces design options, but the preferred plan is to turn the right bunker so that it cuts across the approach. The left bunker should be divided into two, with the far section being moved on by about 5 metres so that it guards the side of the green and not only the front. The fairway shape should be changed short of the green. Move it left so that the approach is angled from the left. This will bring the water hazard into play more as well.

These proposals will not stop the longest players from trying to drive the green and there is no problem with them doing so, but it will make it much more difficult and more will choose to lay up.



Re-bunker to encourage more shots to go closer to the water hazard

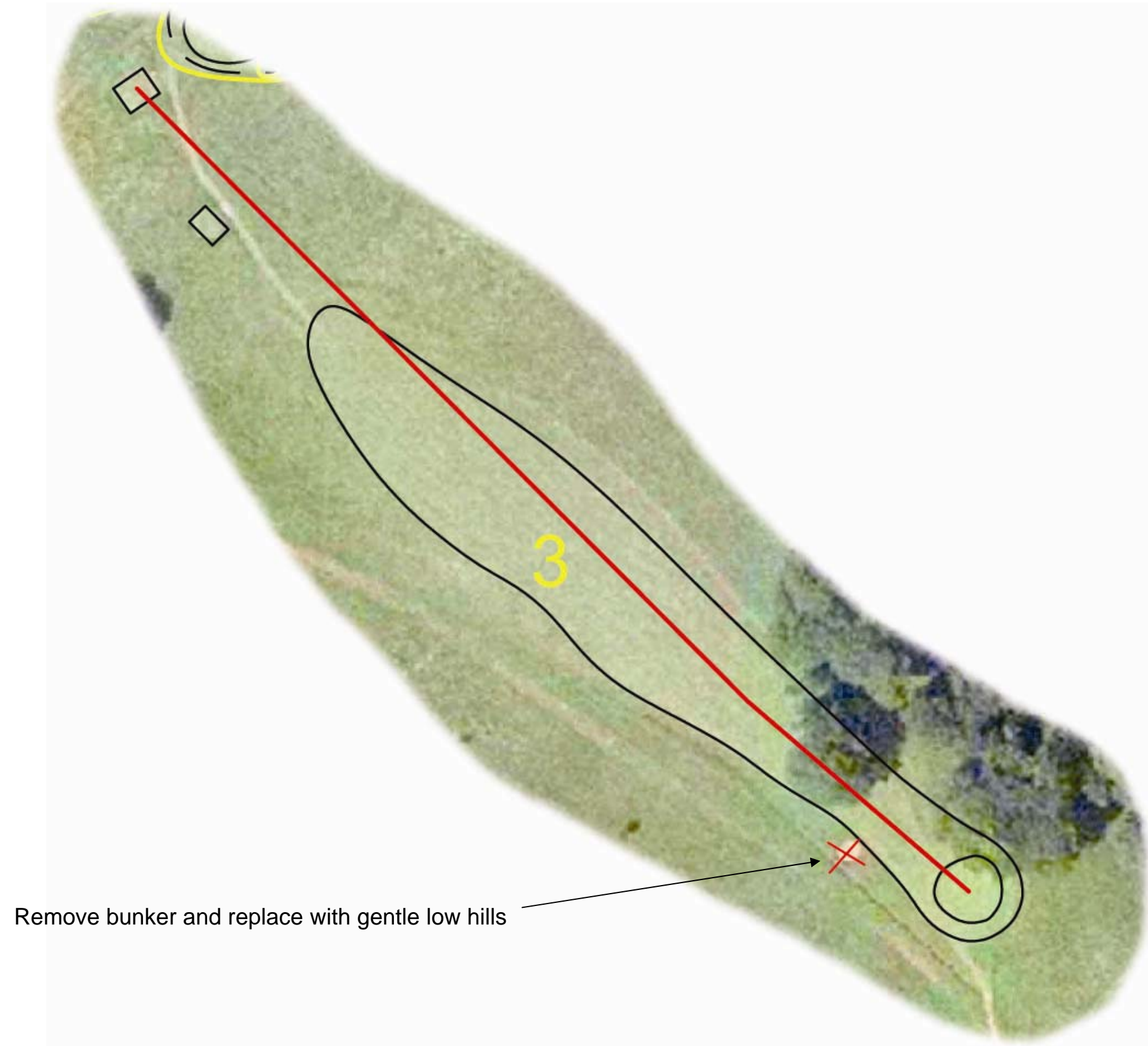


3rd Hole Par 4

White: 333m Yellow: 333m Blue: 290m Red: 290m

This is a most unusual hole, but it is also a good one. The large oak dominates and the sloping green is challenging. There is little scope to extend the hole, which is a shame, unless the tee were raised considerably, but that is out of character.

The only recommendation here is to remove the bunker that is well short of the green and to replace it with a series of low (300 to 500mm) mounds that prevent balls from being topped through to the green. This will also create more room for traffic.



4th Hole Par 5

White: 515m Yellow: 458m Blue: 458m Red: 388m

This has the potential to be one of the best holes on the course, but it falls a long way short of this potential. The existing fairway bunker is well into the rough- an admission of defeat- and the drive is largely unprotected against the longer drivers. In the modern game, par five holes have to be defended much more. Length is no defence, players have too much confidence on the tee.

The drive can be strengthened quite easily by moving the existing bunker into the fairway, locating it about 15m closer to the green. A further bunker should be added short of this one on the other side of the fairway. Shorter players will not be able to reach the left bunker, but both will be in play for the longer ones, who will have to place their drives precisely to have a chance of reaching the green in two shots.

The old ridge across the fairway was a good feature and the removal of one section has made it look less interesting and it would be good to reinstate it.

The approach is the next area to address and, again, it is designed to make all players think more. The right hand approach bunker is to be moved left and turned diagonally so that a diagonal line of bunkers is formed from short and left across and up the right side of the green. The right greenside bunker is huge and should be divided into two. The left bunker should also be divided into two.

The green is undulating and difficult, but that is good on a par five. The size of the green looks to have been reduced and it should be grown back out at the back and back left to create more interesting flag positions.

Extend back right and
back left of green to
make better use of
contours

Divide both greenside
bunkers into two

Boldly reshape the
approach bunker so
that it angles across
approach

Move existing drive
bunker into fairway

Add new
bunker on
the right of
the drive



ON AFTER

5th Hole Par 4

White: 270m Yellow: 262m Blue: 262m Red: 232m

The recommendations here are in two parts. The main recommendation is to turn the hole into a long par three, with the group of trees on the right and the ground dropping away on the left. The reasons for this recommendation (the most radical of the report) are:

1. to reduce congestion in the 4th green, 5th and 11th tee and 14th green area
2. to create room for the 6th hole
3. to eliminate a congested area at the green and
4. to replace an almost certain birdie opportunity with a hole that would be amongst the most testing on the course without extending into new land.

The hole would measure about 210 metres. The decision to recommend this has not been taken lightly, but the advantages are considerable and the new hole would be a good one, with the green in full view when the hole is played from the 11th Yellow Tee. This also frees more room to extend the 11th slightly and to bring the Yellow Tee on that hole into line with the White Tee. On the new 5th, the Yellow Tee will be about 180 metres long and the Blue and Red Tees in the 140 to 150 metre range.

The green will be unusual because the trees will be in play more than on most other holes and with bunkers guarding the left, it will be a demanding target. The aim, however, is not to make the green too difficult. The length will do that.

The loss of an easy short par four and the addition of a long par three will do a great deal to strengthen the course.

New par three hole
strengthens opening
holes

It frees room for the
drive on the 6th

The new hole is around
210m from the back tee



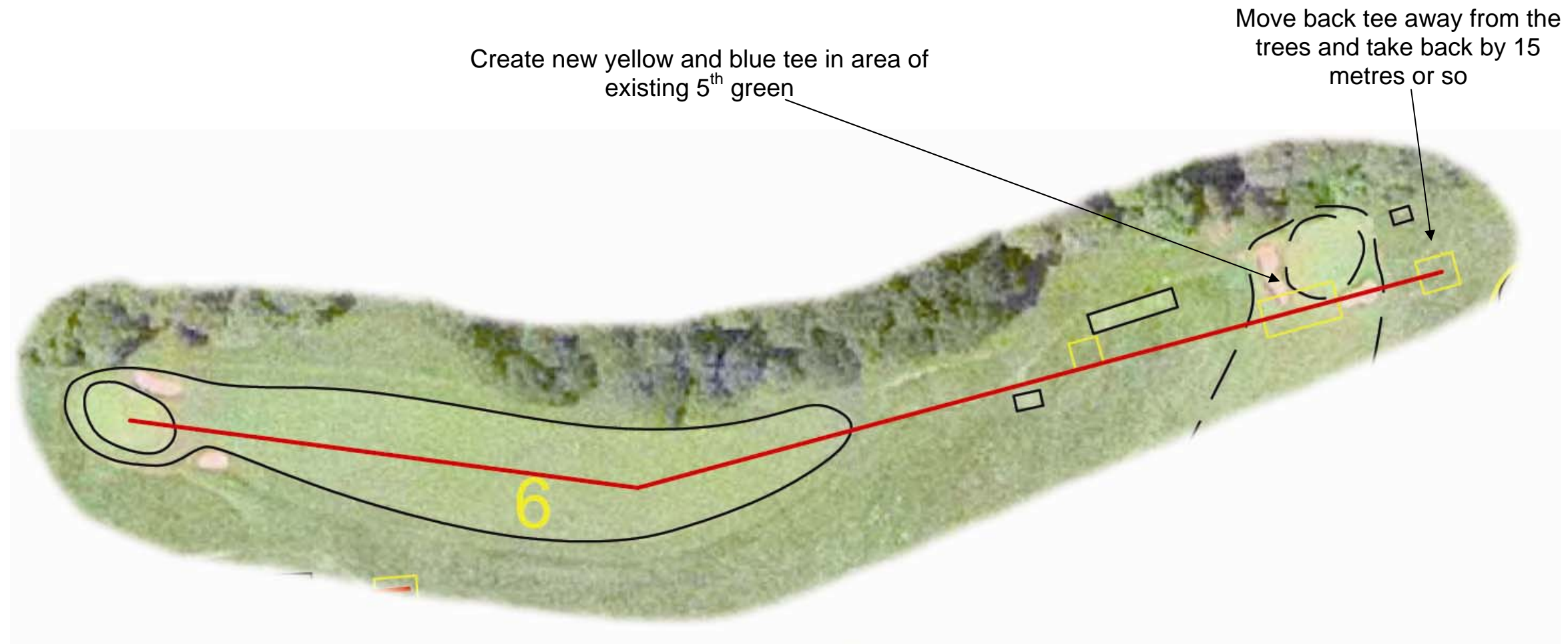
6th Hole Par 4

White: 391m Yellow: 315m Blue: 315m Red: 273m

As outlined in the introduction, the difference between the front and back tees is enormous. The front tees make the hole far too short and weakens the start of the course. The back tee is formidable.

The recommendation to move the 5th green will make a big difference because the Yellow and Blue Tees can be moved back to the area of the green, making them better holes. The White Tee needs to be moved left to take it away from the tree branches.

Other than that, this is a good hole.



7th Hole Par 5

White: 462m Yellow: 457m Blue: 434m Red: 413m

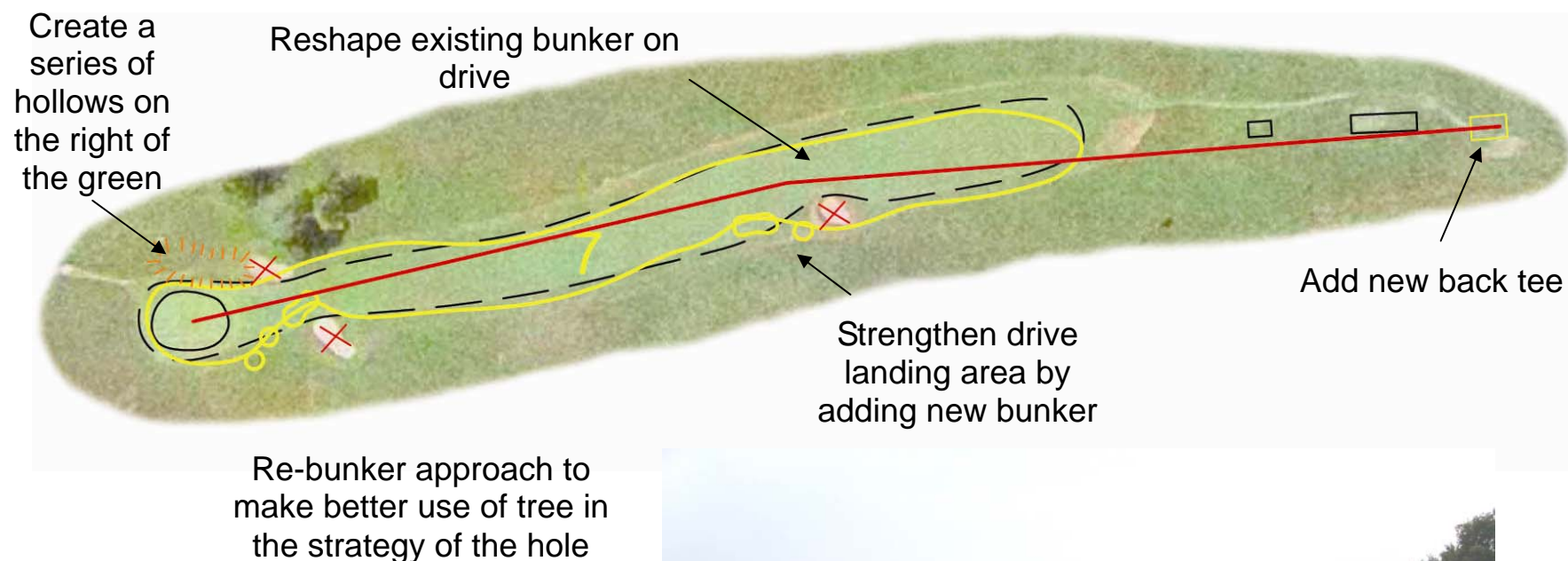
This is another par five that needs to be strengthened to make it more of a three shot hole for the better players. There is space to add another tee and this should be taken, even if it only adds 15 metres or so. The drive bunker is reasonably well placed, but it would be better to add a new bunker further on narrowing the drive more, although the exact position will depend upon whether the new tee is added.

The approach to the green needs attention. The left bunker is another that is in the rough. The right bunker sits alongside the tree and is well short of the green, which is poorly guarded for a short par five. A complete rethink is needed.

The recommendation is to make better use of the tree, by filling in both bunkers and creating a line of bunkers on the left that starts at the green and comes back past the tree. A 15 metre wide approach is left between the tree and the bunkers to allow balls to be run on, but it will be a more demanding approach for players trying to reach the green in two shots.

The green surrounds are not well defended and the proposal here is to create a long hollow along the right that can be closely mown. These do not need to be severe and golfers would be able to walk through them to reach the 8th tee.

It is a pity that the green is not very interesting. In the long term, reshaping it to make it more challenging is worth considering. Par five greens are better when players know that they must try to play into the correct quarter to have a reasonable birdie chance. Anywhere else and they have a problem. That is not the case here.



8th Hole Par 3

White: 145m Yellow: 145m Blue: 145m Red: 132m

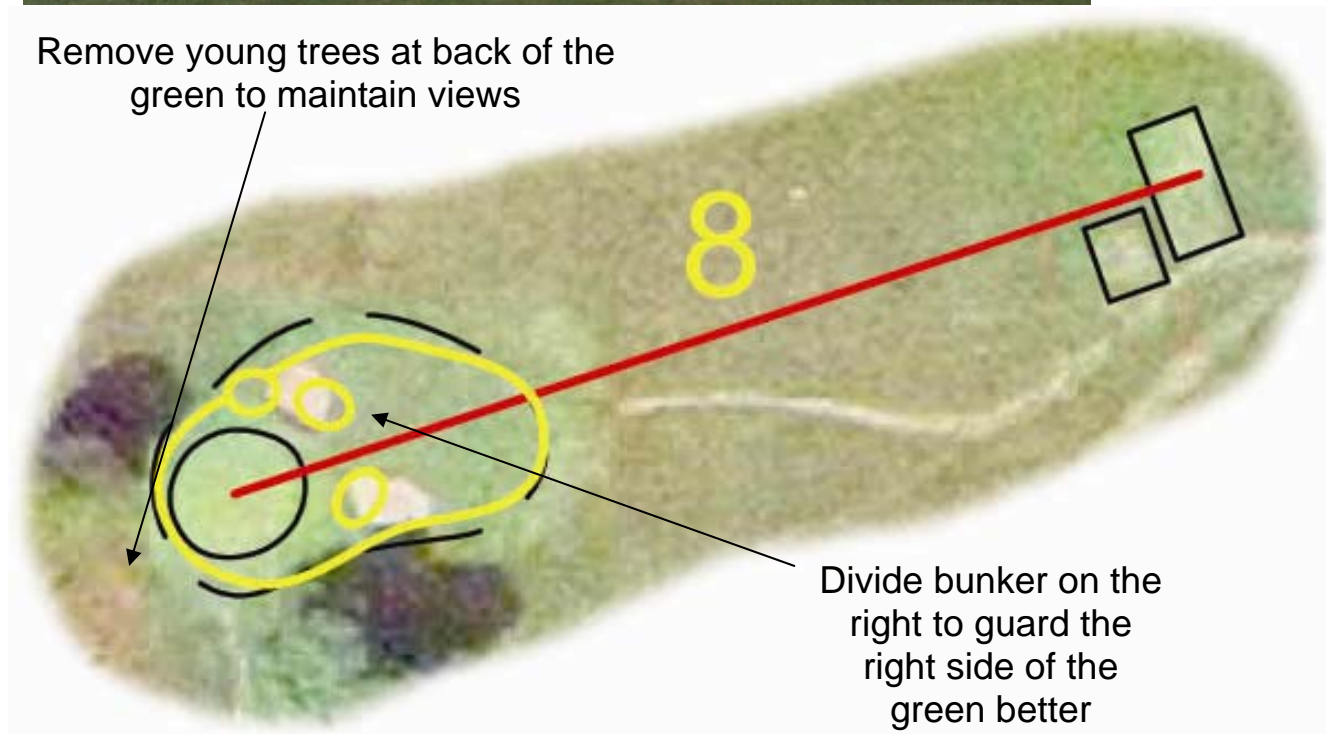
This is an attractive downhill par three with a beautiful background of the pond and the farm. This view will not last long, though, because the young trees will soon grow up to block the view and make the green very shady. It is much better to move them before it is too late.

The green is not very interesting for a relatively short par three. The standard front right and front left bunkering lets the hole down. It is recommended that the right bunker is divided into two and the far one is moved up the green so that it guards the right side more than the front.

Relocation of the hole was considered and a good alternative hole could be created that plays across the existing hole, but it is unlikely to be a significant improvement and it is better to ask for other things from the authorities.



Remove young trees at back of the green to maintain views



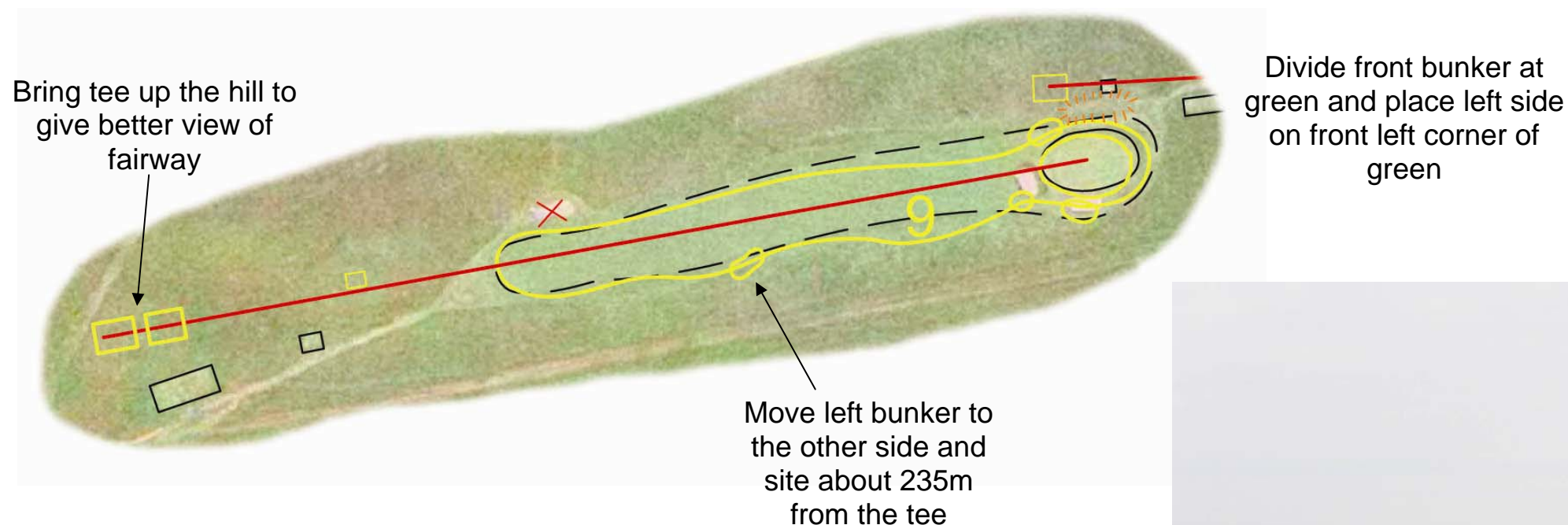
9th Hole Par 4

White: 344m Yellow: 334m Blue: 289m Red: 289m

The tees are not in the best position here and they should be moved onto the higher ground. From here, more of the fairway is visible and the drive bunker, which is poorly positioned for the better player, can be moved on by about 70 metres and across to the right side of the fairway. This will make the hole easier for the shorter player and make it a far better driving hole for the longer players.

On a course where almost all of the green entrances are wide open, this green is a surprise with a cross bunker right across the front. Unfortunately, this is no better as it acts as a road block for the shorter players and does little to scare the better players.

The recommendation here is to split that bunker into two and to move the right half to the right, so that it covers about 3 metres of the green and is about 5 metres short of the front of the green. The approach should be moved over to the right more so that the slope of the green becomes more important in the strategy of the hole. The left half should be moved left and should be set into a series of hollows and humps that are to be created along the length of the green. This work will involve reshaping of the edge of the green to create more interesting pin positions on an otherwise uninteresting green.



ASSESSMENT REPORT

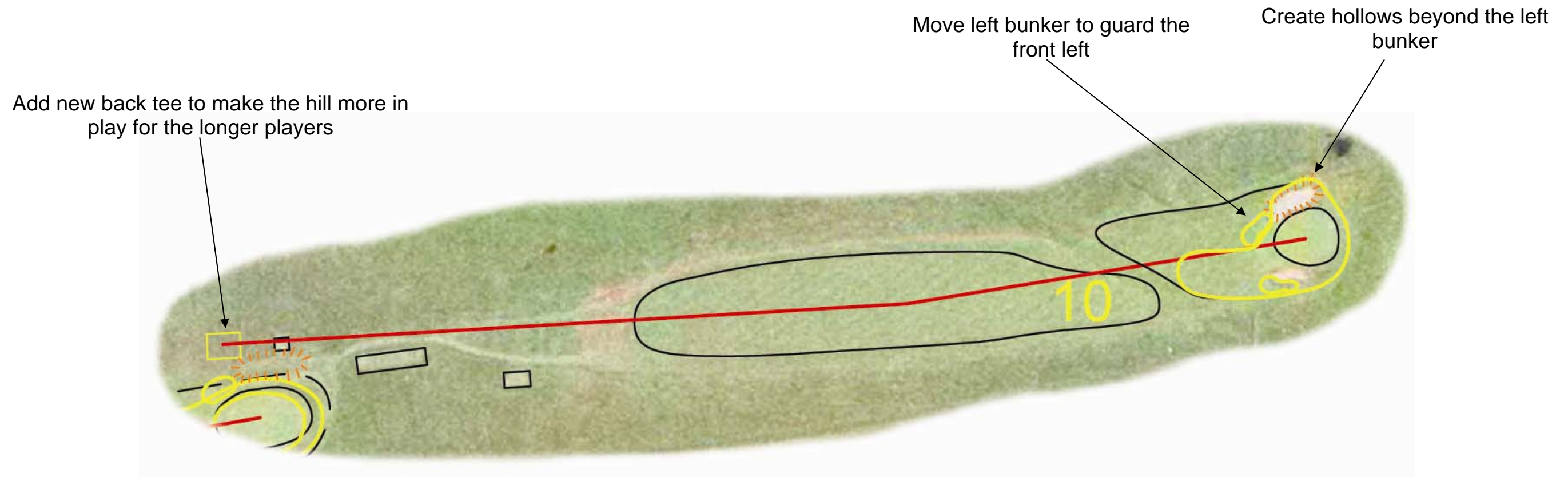


10th Hole Par 4

White: 369m Yellow: 340m Blue: 340m Red: 288m

The addition of a small back tee would make sense on this hole, as it will make the diagonal ridge that runs through the fairway more of a feature for the longer players.

The right hand bunker by the green is a good one, but the left bunker is one of the worse and it should be moved closer to the green and reduced in size, whilst also narrowing the width of the approach. Beyond this bunker, there should be hollows and humps again.



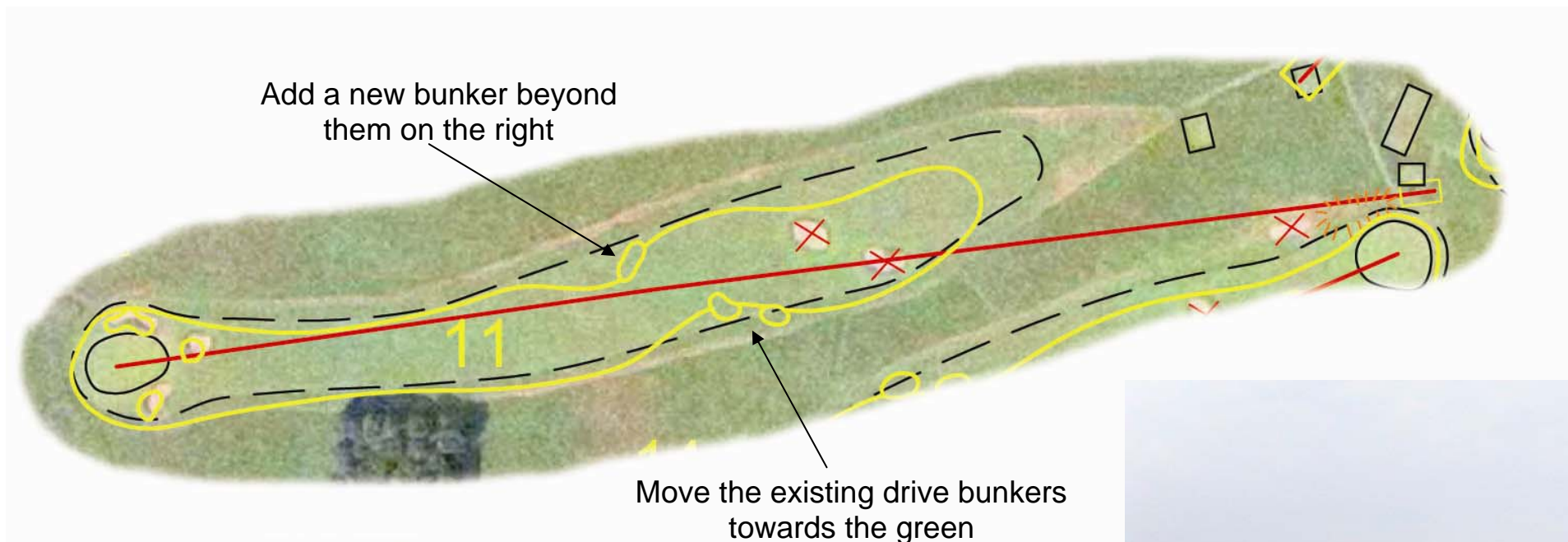
11th Hole Par 4

White: 403m Yellow: 379m Blue: 339m Red: 339m

The two bunkers that sit at a diagonal to the line of play is a good feature, but they are closer to the tee than they are to the green. On a par four that makes no sense at all. The drive needs to be re-bunkered but maintaining the same character. This is to be done by creating two small bunkers on the left about 230 metres carry from the current back tee and adding another bunker on the right at about 250 metres. This bunker should be sited to create the same diagonal line, but this bunker will catch the long drive that does not take on the carry of the left bunkers.

The revised 5th hole frees up room to extend the length from the White Tees by about 15 metres. The Yellow and Red Tees should also be moved left to offer a similar strategy.

The greenside bunkers are the best on the course because they have some height. There are banks on the greenside of them and they have far more visual impact.



BEFORE



AFTER

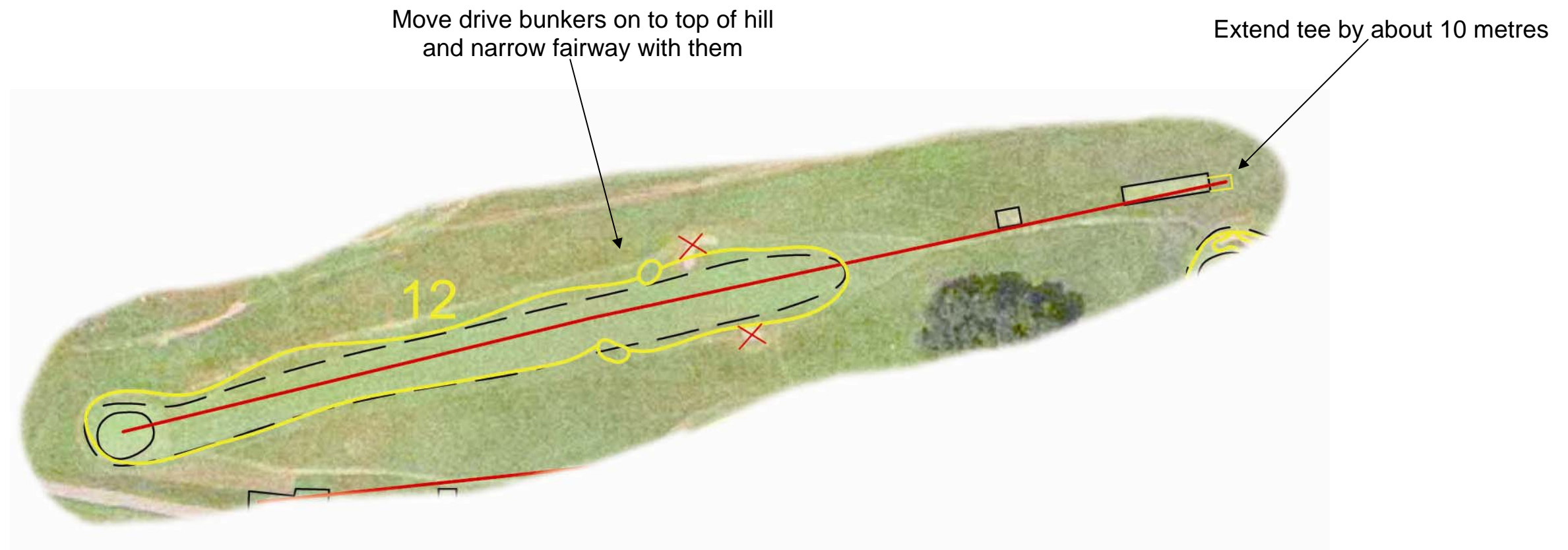
12th Hole Par 4

White: 420m Yellow: 410m Blue: 349m Red: 349m

On paper, this is the hardest hole on the course, but the drive bunkering is so wide that the long players are free to hit with no real obstacles in their way. Once again, the drive bunkers are closer to the tee than the green. The bunkers should both be filled in and new ones created on the edge of the fairway. The right bunker should be set at 225 metres from the tee and the left one at 240 metres. This is as far as they can go before the ground starts to drop away towards the green.

There is the possibility of adding about 10 metres to the hole at some point, but it would be hard to add more without the tee becoming high and ugly.

The green is completely featureless. Some shaping of the surrounds would make it fit in with the other greens more, but this is a low priority as the hole is strong for all but the very longest.

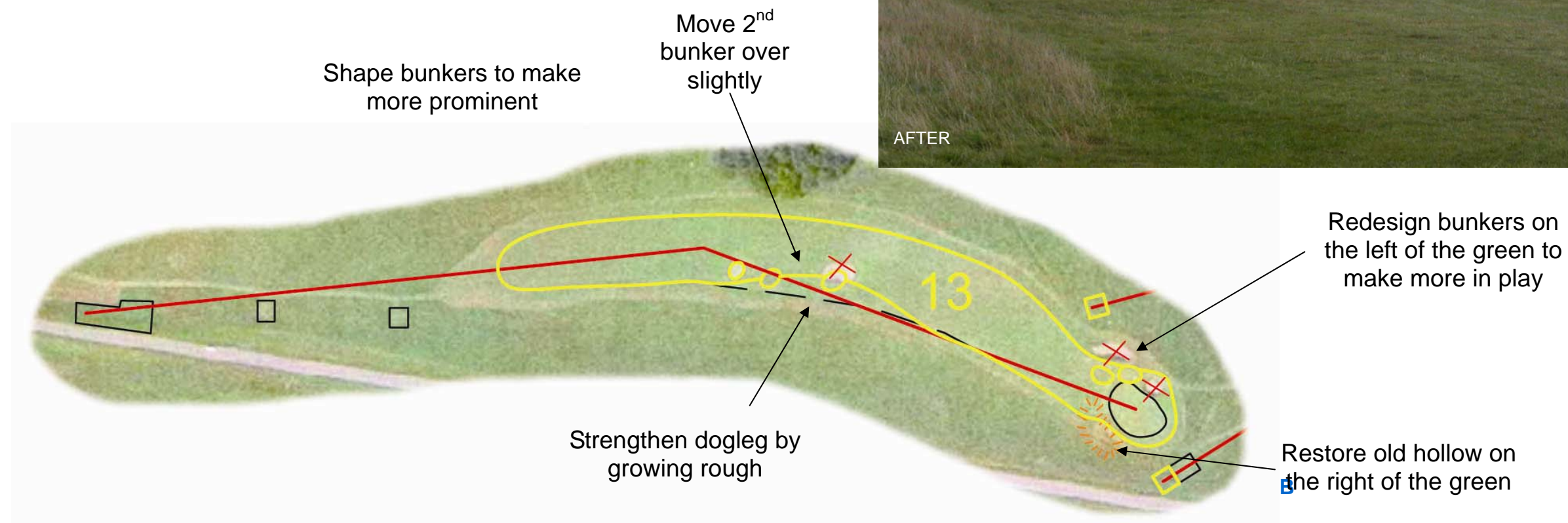


13th Hole Par 4

White: 366m Yellow: 366m Blue: 314m Red: 314m

This is a good driving hole, except that the rough right of the bunkers has been cut so much that the dogleg character is being lost and the bunkers lose their meaning. The rough must be grown back up. The bunkers should be shaped to have more of a face. They are not really hazards unless the ball finishes up under the face. Move the far bunker over to the right slightly to reinforce the corner.

The green surface has some lovely shapes, but the surrounds let the hole down. It was reported that there used to be some hollows on the right of the green and these should be rebuilt so that they cover the right 8 metres of the green, creating good pin positions. The left bunkers should also be moved to narrow the entrance down to about 10 metres of flat ground. These should be shaped to be more obvious from the fairway by creating a hill into which to set the faces.



14th Hole Par 4

White: 370m Yellow: 363m Blue: 309m Red: 309m

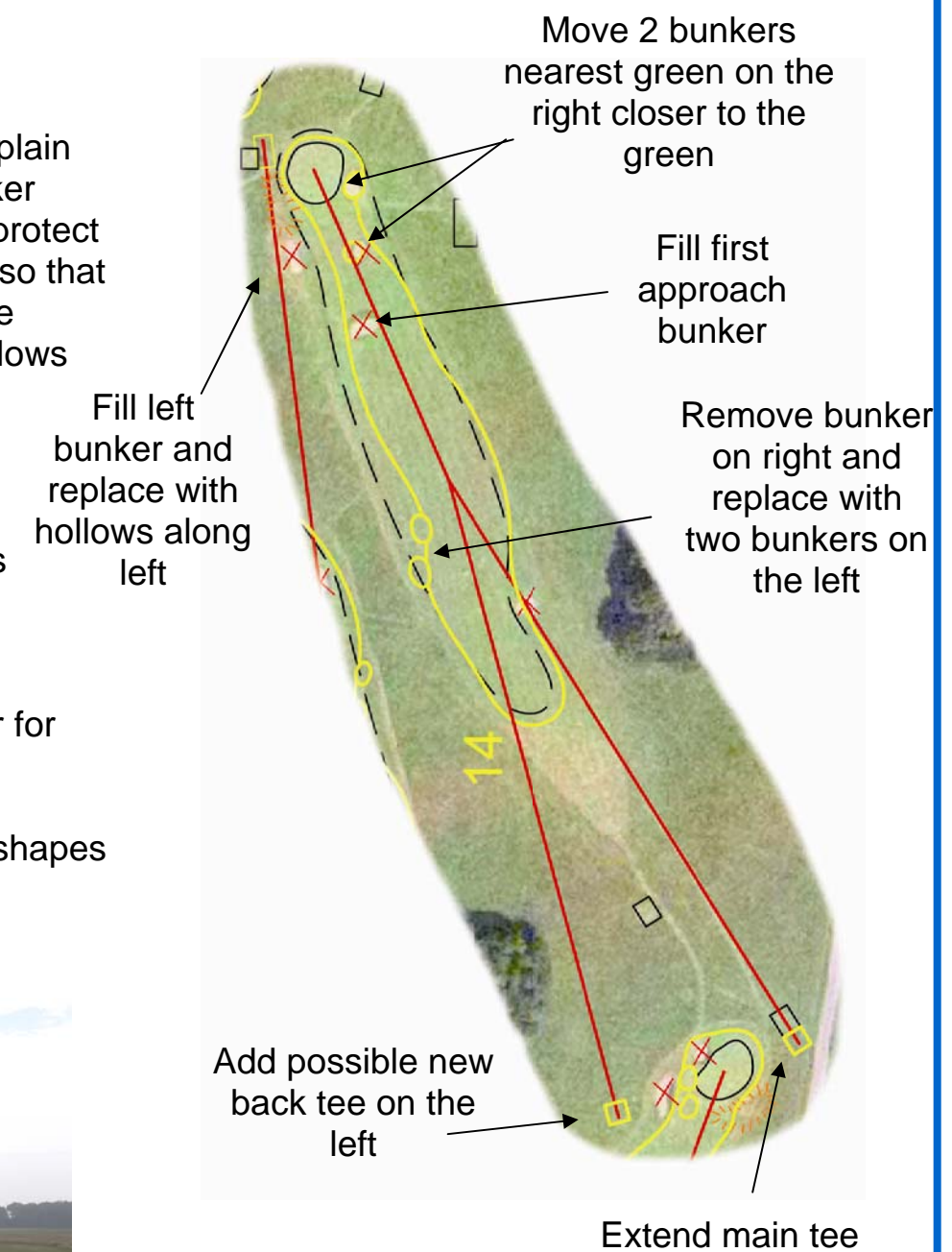
This is a pleasant hole, but the bunkering no longer makes sense. When re-doing the bunkering on this hole, it is easier to explain from the green back. It is an attractive green, but the big slope on the right cannot be used for pin positions and the right bunker only protects this area. The best positions are close to the slope and it is recommended that the right bunker is moved left to protect them (approximately the right third of the green). The bunker that is further back in the approach then needs to be moved left so that it covers the next third of the green. The bunker on the left should be removed and replaced with hollows that extend down the length of the green and out about 10 metres from the front of the green. The space between the approach bunker and the hollows should be 12 metres.

The other bunker that is about 30 metres short should also be removed.

This revised bunkering makes the left side from the tee more favourable for the better player, so the plan is now to bunker this side where a long drive would finish with two new hazards that should be in the 240 to 270 metre range. The existing bunker can be filled in because shots to the green will be more difficult from that side with the new bunkering.

The revised plan will produce a hole that appears similar to the present hole, but that plays very differently. It will be no harder for the shorter player, but the longer players will be tested much more thoroughly.

The possibility of a championship tee on the left works well with the revised bunkering, but if it is to be built, then the bunker shapes in the fairway would be slightly different. There is room to add a few extra metres to the main tee as well.



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15th Hole Par 4

White: 335m Yellow: 326m Blue: 285m Red: 285m

This has the potential to be a strong short par four, but the bunkering lets it down now. It looks as if bunkers have been added to stop players from hitting long drives, but that is not how to make short par fours challenging. These holes should tempt all players to be too ambitious and the bunkering on the drive needs to be re-positioned again. Here the recommendation is to move the far central bunker to the left so that it is on the edge of the fairway. The second bunker on the right should be moved forward so that it sits into the ridge 225 metres from the existing tee and the other bunker moved to the left side of the fairway. The rationale for this plan is that the middle bunker has to be cleared in the air to gain maximum distance. Too far on that line, though, and the right greenside will block the free line. The first bunker on the left makes the lay up shot more testing and the far left bunker will catch the long shot that does not carry over the right bunker.

This strategy will require the bunkers to be testing, so that shots to the green will be difficult and a bogey will be the result of going in them, more often than not.

The left greenside bunker should be completely reshaped and divided so that it cuts into the approach more. The opening to the green should only be 10 metres wide and the revised bunkers should be made more visible.

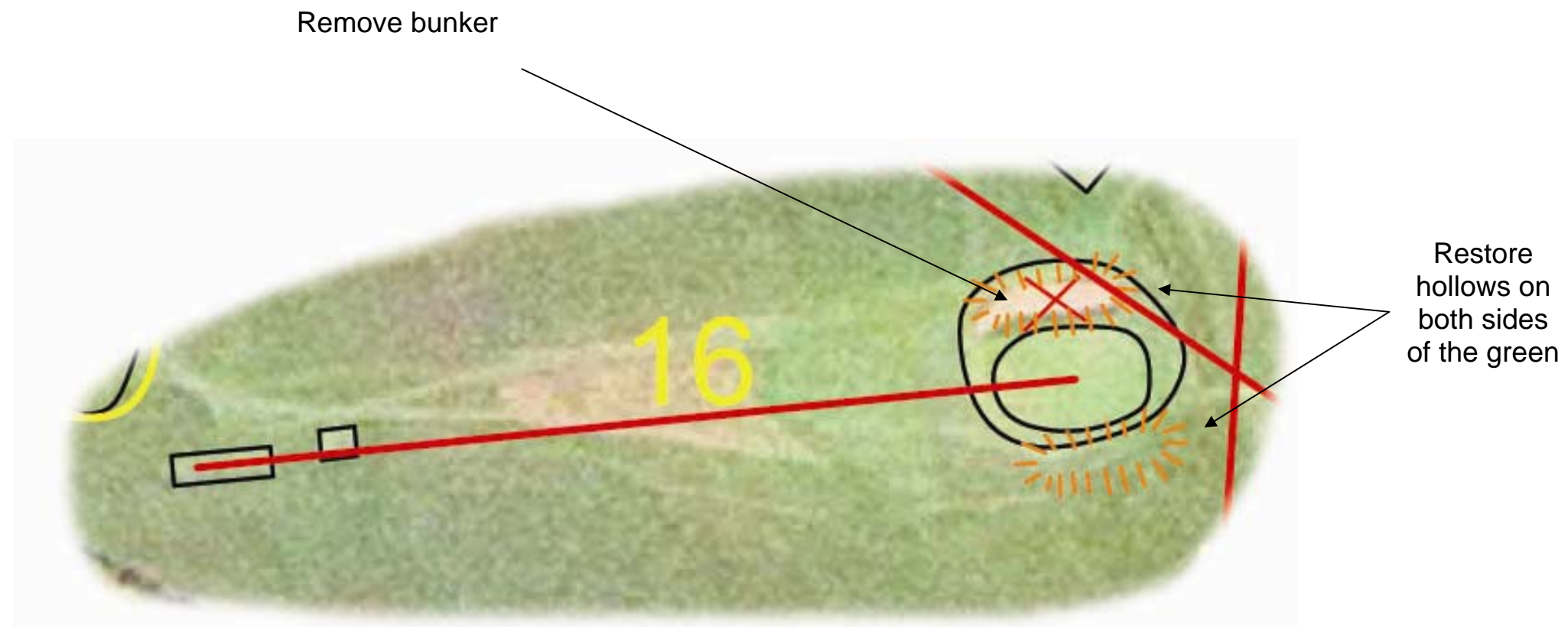
There is scope to add extra length by taking the tee back and right. This will strengthen the hole as a dogleg and make the carry over the right bunker more daunting for the top players for whom a carry of 225 metres is not difficult any more.



16th Hole Par 3

White: 151m Yellow: 140m Blue: 140m Red: 125m

The hole used to be bunkerless with hollows guarding the right and left. The addition of the long bunker and removal of the right hollow have not improved the hole: quite the reverse in fact. It would be good to reinstate the hole, as it was before or at the least the right hollow restored and the left bunker turned into a single pot bunker guarding the front right.



17th Hole Par 5

White: 504m Yellow: 504m Blue: 432m Red: 432m

This hole is an unfortunate victim of technology, because players who are long enough to hit over the ridge gain a huge and unfair advantage over the average player who cannot. For the better players it must usually be a two shot hole and an easy birdie, although the green is a great defence with its cunning contours.

There is room to add some more tees, taking them back and a little left at the same time. This will further reduce the frequency of balls ending up close to the public path.

The area around the green needs some work, with the right approach bunker being moved right and on by about 10 metres. Its face must be visible from the top of the hill.

The left greenside bunker is big and ugly and needs to be divided into two. The first one should be in the approach more, set into the ridge so that it guards the front more. The next section is where the right half of the existing bunker is. This subtle change means that the right bunker is more in play for those trying to reach the green with a long shot, while the left bunkers will make shots to the green from the left more difficult.

Divide left bunker to guard left of green more effectively

Move approach bunker over to the right and move closer to the green

Add new back tee



BEFORE



AFTER

COURSE ASSESSMENT REPORT

18th Hole Par 3

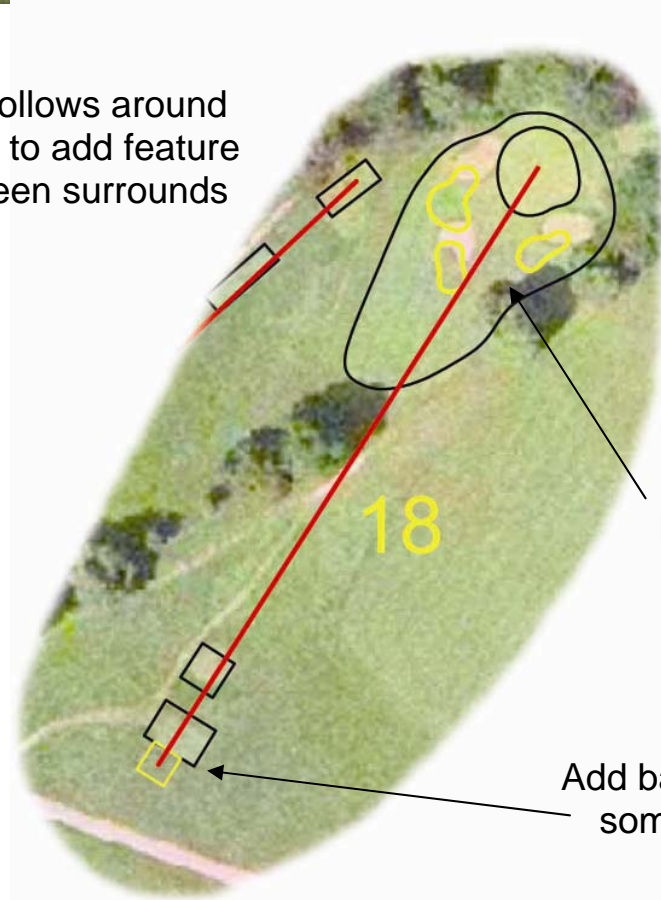
White: 177m Yellow: 177m Blue: 156m Red: 156m

The final hole seems a little out of character with many of the others on the course. The green is relatively flat, but that is correct on a relatively long par three. The surrounds and bunkers are extremely flat and featureless and bold reshaping is recommended, while leaving the green intact. This will involve creating hollows and gentle hills around the green. The bunkers can be reduced to half their size, but the banks should be more visible from the tee.



BEFORE

Create hollows around the green to add feature to the green surrounds



Make bunkers much more prominent

Add back tee at some point



AFTER

Proposed Alterations at Royal Copenhagen Golf Club

November 2005

Card of The Course

Hole	Present Length	Proposed Length	Difference	Present Par	Proposed Par	Comments
1	181	181	0	3	3	
2	276	276	0	4	4	
3	333	333	0	4	4	
4	515	515	0	5	5	Possible extra length available in long term
5	270	215	-55	4	3	A strong par three that could be even longer
6	391	406	15	4	4	New tees in area of existing 5th green
7	402	402	0	5	5	New tee strengthens the drive more
8	145	145	0	3	3	
9	344	359	15	4	4	New tees on higher ground also add length
OUT	2917	2912	-5	38	35	The reduction in par makes this nine more demanding than at present
Hole	Present Length	Proposed Length	Difference	Present Par	Proposed Par	Comments
10	369	369	0	4	4	
11	403	413	10	4	4	New tee brings hill into play for longer players again
12	420	430	10	4	4	More room for back tee when present 5th removed
13	366	366	0	4	4	Extend the present tee slightly
14	370	380	10	4	4	
15	335	355	20	4	4	Possible back tee on left. 10 metres can be gained on the right as well
16	151	151	0	3	3	
17	504	519	15	5	5	New back tee increases the angle of the dogleg
18	177	157	-20	3	3	New back tee makes it harder to drive over the hill
IN	3095	3200	105	35	35	Possible back tee if length is needed
OUT	2917	2912	-5	38	35	
TOTAL	6012	6112	100	71	70	With the reduction in par this is the equivalent of adding 300 metres



No.	Revision/Issue	Date



Project COPENHAGEN GOLF CLUB	
Drawing Title Proposed Layout	
Drawing No. Layout 01 New	
Date 28/10/05	Drawn by CH

Conclusion

The joy of golf is that it is played on such varied terrain and there are very few places to play that are better than Royal Copenhagen. It is a glorious and unique and the layout of the course is strong. The course is never likely to be the hardest, but that is not what the members would want in any case.

There are significant weaknesses, however, that are only going to become worse with each year. Almost all of these relate to the bunkering, which is tired and outdated. Most of the shapes seem to have been created more for ease of maintenance than for any golfing or aesthetic quality. The only sensible plan of action is to start again. This will transform the appearance of the course and the way in which it plays for all standards of player, making it easier for the higher handicap player and more difficult for better players.

The proposed change to the 5th hole is for sound reasons: to reduce congestion around the 4th and 14th greens; to introduce a more difficult hole into the opening run of holes; and to free room to make the 6th as good as it deserves to be from all tees. It will make a really big difference to the course.

This may sound like a radical set of proposals, but it is really not unusual for an entire set of bunkers to become outdated. The past twenty years have seen an astonishing change in the game that has shown up every weakness in all courses. The reality is that clubs are being forced to react.

As far as cost is concerned, a huge amount depends upon who does what, but there are only 57 bunkers so the scale of the work is not huge. It does not need to be done in one go. Compared to the cost of clubhouse work, it is inexpensive.

To conclude, it has been a privilege to visit your course. It is such a special place. It would be a huge honour to be involved in helping to bring the course back towards its full potential and maintain its rightful place amongst Europe's elite.



COURSE ASSESSMENT REPORT ON KØBENHAVNS GOLF KLUB



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